

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Control:
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July 17, 1956
10:35 a.m.Info
RMR

FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 43, July 17, 2 p.m.

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Limited comment Helsinki press on RSFSR absorption Karelo-Finnish SSR. Editorial independent SANOMAT (Helsinki's largest) noted that this first case of "member state" of USSR being "marked down", i.e. put on sale. Whole territory once Finnish now going to Russian SFSR. Republic originally formed for foreign policy reasons now unnecessary. No mention in HS editorial of possible border adjustments. IZVESTIA attack on HS (Moscow's 88) therefore must refer earlier items in Finnish press, mainly July 5, speculating cautiously on possible border adjustments flowing from Voroshilov visit August 21. HS editorial 12th on visit was silent re borders but news columns had carried succession stories foreign sources on that subject probably irritating to Soviets. Reprinting IZVESTIA article on 14th. HS added briefly that it was "far-fetched and false attack" as paper had not (repeat not) raised border question but asserted: "Free press has the natural duty of interpreting public opinion in a free world". On 15th, HS London correspondent's story quoted view Soviet expert MANCHESTER GUARDIAN that the Soviets have only themselves to blame if Finns expect return of Karelia as timing of change of republic's status added to growing Finnish hopes. Undeterred, HS on 16th front-paged account with pictures of trip to Terijoki (Karelian city now in Soviet territory) by 97 Finns formerly resident that popular resort.

Communist Tyokansan SANOMAT on 14th reprinted IZVESTIA article adding front page editorial stressing finality borders fixed by 1947 peace treaty

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